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FLOOR DEBATE

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bill was presented to me on behalf of the Department of Environmental Quality. It would allow the department to use the funds in the Integrated Solid Waste Management Cash Fund to investigate and remediate landfill sites, tire piles, building demolition or other cleanups where no viable responsible party is available to pay the cost. It would also allow the department to file a civil suit in Lancaster County District Court to recover any funds so expended if a viable responsible party can be located. Currently, half of the disposal fees go into the Solid Waste Management Cash Fund Act, and there's about \$3 million in the fund at the present time, it generates about \$1 million a year, and it has been suggested that we use this for clean up of abandoned sites, orphan sites, or sites where there is no one with financial responsibility. And I do have an amendment that didn't get down so I will do it on Select File, and it would allow them to use up to 10 percent instead of the current 5 percent of their annual fees for an orphan site or disposal site, and it would allow second class cities and villages to be able to access the fund for disposal purposes. That is the basic premise of the bill. It was advanced out of committee unanimously. If you have any questions, I will try to answer them.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on advancement? Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. And a question for Senator Schrock.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schrock, would you respond?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, I can.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Members, could I please have your attention. Could you hold your conversations to a minimum so that Senator Vrtiska and Senator Schrock can hear each other? Thank you.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Schrock, I...in looking at the bill, these are abandoned sites that nobody is responsible for. Is that right?